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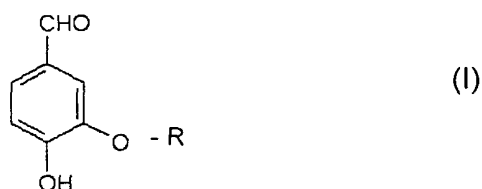
2002/M015 (A60)

Patent Claims:

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1. A method for sterilizing a protein containing biological composition, said method comprising the step of subjecting said composition to a virucidally effective amount of artificial irradiation in the presence of a substance of the general formula (I)

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wherein R=H,CH₃ or C₂H₅

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one enveloped double-stranded DNA-virus and at least one non-enveloped single-stranded DNA-virus is inactivated by at least 4 Log.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the irradiation is UV, IR, gamma-irradiation, x-ray or visible light.

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4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein in formula (I) R=CH₃ (vanillin).

5. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the irradiation is UVA, UVB or UVC.

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6. The method of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the irradiation is UVC at a wavelength of 240 to 290 nm.

7. The method of any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the irradiation is UVC at a wavelength of 254 nm.
8. The method of any of claims 1 to 7, wherein said protein containing biological composition contains purified plasma proteins.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein is a coagulation factor.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said coagulation factor is selected from the group consisting of factors V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XIII and fibrinogen.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the coagulation factor is factor VIII.
12. The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein retains at least 85% of its biological activity after treatment with irradiation.
13. The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein retains at least 95% of its biological activity after treatment with irradiation.
14. The method of claim 8, wherein not more than 5 % of aggregates are formed during irradiation.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein either before, after or at the same time as said protein containing biological composition is subjected to said irradiation and said compound of general formula (I), the composition is subjected to at least one different virucidal method.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the different virucidal method is selected from the group consisting of heat treatment, pH manipulation, solvent or detergent or and detergent treatment, and gamma-irradiation treatment.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the substance of the general formula (I) is employed in a concentration of 0.1 to 25 mmol/l.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the substance of the general formula (I) is employed in a concentration of 0.5 to 5 mmol/l.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein factor VIII is associated with von Willebrand factor.

20. The method of using a substance of general formula (I) in an virus-inactivation process.

21. A pharmaceutical composition for the use with humans or animals, containing at least one ingredient, sterilized by the method according to claim 1.

22. A pharmaceutical product for the use with humans or animals, for the production of which the method of claim 1 has been used.